

Letter to Richard Thornton, 25 June 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Tette 25 June 1859

M^r R. Thornton

Sir

On our arrival here in November last, I gave you in addition to my written instructions an order to proceed with a geological examination of this district as a starting point; and that order not having been obeyed I made every allowance for your suffering from "prickly heat" and other little illnesses. But at a subsequent period I urged on you the necessity of your making some exertion to fulfill the

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object of your appointment as Mining Geologist and both D^r Kirk and I were of opinion that such exercise would have benefitted your health. You were also informed that Major Secard was ready to send you to all the interesting geological points in the district and I gave you written orders so that there should be no excuse.

according to your own report you did as little geology as possible though your people had instructions to take you to the different coal seams already known. seing you disinclined to work at general geology, I set you to run a shaft into

one of the coal seams to

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ascertain its quality at a proper distance in which you told me was 20 or 30 yardsfeet I visited you on the 14th March last and you were ordered to proceed with this work. you returned from it on the 3^d of May having with the people employed accomplished only 13 feet nine inches, and though in perfect health you have continued idle ever since. Hearing that you were remaining here idle I sent an order from Senna for you to go on with the geological examination of the district This you have not attended to. I am therefore compelled by your repeated

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disobedience of orders to inform you that your salary is stopped from the third of May the date at which you retired from one duty and declined beginning another. It is with great reluctance that I take this step but your failure to do your duty forces me however reluctantly to do mine to H M's Government and separate you from the Expedition.

I am &c

David Livingstone

H. M.'s Consul

Commanding Zambesi Expedition

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O H. M. S.

M^r Richard Thornton

Tette

D^r Livingstone